

**Location: Mayhill, NM** - It is not even January, and we have our first change. I had originally planned on having the conference in Cloudcroft, NM; but, as it turns out, Mayhill and its Community Center is much more central to our Lookout tours; and the venue, food, and accommodations are closer together. Mayhill is only 18 miles east of Cloudcroft on Hwy 82 (the major east/west corridor across the Sacramento Mountains). Some of you may decide to stay in Cloudcroft, and that is just fine. We will visit restaurants in Cloudcroft. I will provide information on lodging in another document.

**Transportation to the Conference:** Any mode of transportation aside from a boat will get you to the conference.

**Your own vehicle:** Please come straight to your lodging location.

**Charter Bus:** Here is a website that provides some guidance on bus charter prices. [www.busbank.com/Charter+Bus+Options/Entertainer+Sleeper](http://www.busbank.com/Charter+Bus+Options/Entertainer+Sleeper). It looks like this might be a good option for a large group (12) traveling together. If the max price for an Entertainer/Sleeper charter is \$3000.00, then that would only be \$250.00 per person one way. If the cost for the driver(s) to go into standby mode is the daily rate, this mode of travel may turn out to be the most expensive.

**Train:** Amtrak [www.amtrak.com/home](http://www.amtrak.com/home) provides service to El Paso ending at the El Paso Union Depot. Example: Round trip train fair for two from Portland, OR, to El Paso, TX, would be \$1040.00. A rental car can be picked up from Union Station. This mode of travel is pretty good if Amtrak is near your home or within a reasonable drive. The only downside is that it is slower. The above example takes 48 hours one way, with a one hour change in Los Angeles, and there are not trains leaving every day for a particular destination.

**Airplane:** The major airlines that fly to El Paso are American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, United, and US Airways. The airport code for El Paso International is ELP. Car rental companies at the airport are:

Advantage – 800-777-5500  
Alamo – 800-222-9058  
Avis – 800-230-4898  
Budget – 800-527-0700  
Dollar – 800-800-4000  
Enterprise – 800-261-7331  
Hertz – 800-654-3131  
National – 877-222-9058  
Thrifty – 800-847-4389

Flying may be the best option. As an example: From Spokane, WA (last year's destination for me), currently Southwest is showing an online price of \$259.00 per person one way. The anytime price is \$524.00.

**Balloon:** Alamogordo does have a Hot Air Balloon Park [http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/coa/communityservices/Balloon\\_Park.htm](http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/coa/communityservices/Balloon_Park.htm). Just kidding ☺

